

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 11 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported by at least paragraphs [0040] and [0051] of the specification, and Figs. 1, 4, and 5, as originally filed. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 were allowed in a previous Office Action. This Office Action makes no reference to the withdrawal of the allowance of claims 1-5, but rather simply asserts new grounds for rejection as indicated below.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1-4, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,715,879 to DeVaan and known state of the art. The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVaan as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,993 to Shikama. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

DeVaan teaches a projection device comprising a projector for providing a light beam to be projected in polarized light (Abstract). In order to accomplish this, DeVaan teaches an adjustable liquid crystal element for changing the direction of polarization arranged between the projector and the transmissive projection screen, the transmissive projection screen comprising a polarization diffuser layer (Abstract).

The Office Action asserts that claim 1 recites a convention LCD type projector with the exception of the relative orientation of light emitted from the projector to the screen. This is a rough generalization of what the precise language of claim 1 actually recites and overlooks at least one or more of the positively recited claim features.

The Office Action indicates that DeVaan discloses a projector wherein the direction of polarization of the light from such an LCD projector may be rotated through any desired direction concluding that the combination of what is known in the art and DeVaan would render obvious the subject matter of the pending claims. The analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reason.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a polarization filter disposed between the spatial light modulation device and the screen, the polarization filter selects a polarization azimuth of a light emitted from the spatial modulation device to make the image light a linearly polarized light, the image light is projected on the screen as the linear polarized light having the polarization azimuth along a predetermined direction except for a short direction of the screen. DeVaan does not disclose such a polarization filter that selects a polarization azimuth of a light emitting from the spatial light modulating device. Instead, DeVaan discloses a liquid crystal element as a polarization device. The liquid crystal element 4 does not select the polarization azimuth, but rather changes the polarization azimuth of the light emitted from the projector 1.

As such, DeVaan, even in combination with what the Office Action alleges is the known state of the art, cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features precisely recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 are also not suggested by the combination of the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Because Shikama is not applied to overcome the above-identified shortfall in the application of the other prior art references to the subject matter of independent claim 1, any combination of Shikama with the other applied references cannot reasonably be considered to

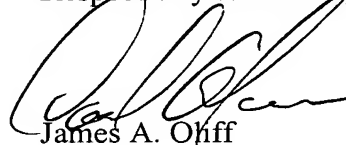
suggest the subject matter of claim 5 for at least the dependence of claim 5 on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that claim 5 recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any combination of the applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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